

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 306686

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(SANDERS, WALTER)

SUBJECT: W/W WALTER SANDERS

REF: PARIS 33990

1. DEPOFF HAD LONG PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MRS. SANDERS AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 22. PARENTS ARE STILL EXTREMELY CONCERNED AND WERE WORRIED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS FROM FRENCH POLICE IN RESPONSE TO "NOTICE INDIVIDUELLE, OBJECT: RECHERCHES DANS L "INTERET DES FAMILLES" WHICH THEY COMPLETED AT FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN THE EARLY SUMMER. DEPOFF READ REFTEL AND FORWARDED COPY TO FAMILY. FAMILY APPRECIATIVE (ALTHOUGH WE PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THEM CONTENTS REFTEL) AND HOPEFUL THAT CONTINUED SEARCH BY FRENCH POLICE WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. MOTHER MENTIONED THAT SON IS FLUENT FRENCH SPEAKER, WHO WAS DESCRIBED TO MOTHER SEVERAL YEARS AGO DURING PARIS VISIT AS A YOUNG FRENCHMAN BY A PARIS CABDRIVER. SHE ALSO MENTIONED THAT WALTER HAD VISITED INDIA SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THAT DURING VISIT HE HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED WITH HEPATITIS
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AND THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED ASSISTANCE AND SENT MONEY THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF STATE. SHE WONDERED IF WALTER COULD HAVE GONE BACK TO INDIA. DEPOFF ATTEMPTING TO TRACE FILE FROM INDIA AND WILL CABLE SUMMARY AND SEARCH REQUEST

TO INDIA WHEN FILE RECEIVED. DEPOFF INFORMED MOTHER THAT ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS WALTER'S PASSPORT HAD

EXPIRED IN MARCH, 1977 AND THAT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT HE TRAVELED OUTSIDE FRANCE AFTER THAT TIME. WE ALSO NOTED THAT HE WAS SEEN IN PARIS DURING APRIL, 1977, AFTER EXPIRATION OF U.S. PASSPORT. IN RESPONSE TO DEPOFF QUERY MRS. SANDERS STATED THAT SHE COULD NOT REMEMBER WALTER NEEDING A NEW PASSPORT WHEN FAMILY VISITED IN PARIS DURING 1973-74 (DATES UNCERTAIN). SHE APPEARED REASSURED BY INFORMATION REGARDING MORGUE CHECKS.

2. MRS. SANDERS MENTIONED THAT FAMILY HAD SAVED ALL OF WALTER'S LETTERS. DEPOFF REQUESTED HER TO SEND US PHOTO-COPIES OF ALL LETTERS. WHEN RECEIVED COPIES WILL BE SENT TO PARIS FOR USE OF EMBASSY AND POLICE IN FINDING POSSIBLE INDICATIONS OF FRIENDS /LOCATIONS IN FRANCE WHERE HE MIGHT BE. MOTHER EMPHASIZED THAT REGARDLESS OF WHERE WALTER TRAVELED IN FRANCE HE ALWAYS RETURNED TO PARIS. SHE ALSO MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT WALTER WAS WELL LIKED IN PARIS AND THAT HE HAD MANY RESPONSIBLE FRIENDS. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT ALSO WALTER'S LIFESTYLE WAS DIFFERENT FROM PARENTS AND WHILE THEY WISHED THAT HE WOULD LEAD A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE LIFE THEY HAD NEVER BROKEN WITH HIM OVER HIS WAY OF LIFE AND THAT HE HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED COMMUNICATION WITH THEM UNTIL SEPTEMBER, 1976.

3. DEPARTMENT CURIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER FRENCH HAVE CAPABILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER WALTER SANDERS LEFT FRANCE
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AT ANY TIME AFTER SEPTEMBER, 1976, AND IF SO, DESTINATION.

4. PASSPORT OFFICE UNABLE TO FIND ANY RECORD OF PASSPORT ISSUANCE IN CURRENT PASSPORT FILES AND HAVE SENT REQUEST FOR SEARCH OF PREVIOUS FILES TO FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER. HOWEVER, FAILURE TO LOCATE CURRENT RECORD WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT SANDERS FAILED TO OBTAIN NEW PASSPORT ON EXPIRATION OF 1972 PASSPORT.

5. DOES EMBASSY BELIEVE THAT PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WOULD BE USEFUL TO FAMILY AND IF SO CAN EMBASSY RECOMMEND ANY RELIABLE INVESTIGATORS?

6. CAN EMBASSY INFORM DEPARTMENT OR FAMILY OF USUAL PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY "SERVICE DE RECHERCHES DANS L'INTERET DES FAMILLES" IN THESE CASES. DO THEY NORMALLY REPORT BACK TO FAMILIES ON FINDINGS, ETC?

7. EMBASSY'S CONTINUED ASSISTANCE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY FAMILY AND DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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Decaption Note:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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